

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New Claims 103-105 have been added. Support for these new claims is found at specification page 14, lines 3-8. No new matter has been entered. These new claims are patentable for the reasons presented November 2, 2009, and for the additional reason that Ohtomo requires the presence of at least 5 % of a styrene thermoplastic resin in the reference composition (see col. 2, line 3 of Ohtomo), with HIPS being particularly desirable and used in the reference examples. Insofar as Applicant is aware, styrene thermoplastic resins as proposed by Ohtomo typically have a heat deflection temperature (HDT) in the neighborhood of 80°C, e.g. typically from 75°C to 85°C in the case of HIPS. In Ohtomo, if the amount of the styrene resin is less than 5 wt. %, the resultant improvement in discoloration resistance is not obtained (see col. 8, lines 53-55 of Ohtomo). As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not use a composition substantially free of styrene thermoplastic resin, as required in new Claims 103-105.

Attached hereto is the Declaration of Henri Massillon, an inventor of the present application. This Declaration explains and expands on the data referred to in Applicants' response of November 2, 2009, and is fully supportive of the patentability of the claims pending herein. In this regard, note in particular paragraph 5 thereof describing the surprising and unexpected results obtained herein and how they are supportive of the full scope of the invention as claimed, and paragraph 8 detailing why Ohtomo's use of substantially more carbon black as compared with that amount presently claimed forestalls the reference from presenting a *prima facie* case against the present application:

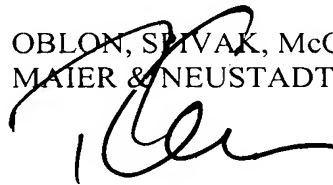
8. The use in Ohtomo of substantially more carbon black as compared with that amount presently claimed is indicative of certain substantially more highly colored compositions than those of the present invention, limited to a maximum of only 20 ppm black pigment. There is no motivation in Ohtomo to use such little amount of black pigment - to the contrary, one skilled in the art would have understood that

reducing so drastically the amount of carbon black would imply switching from an intense gray coloration as provided to an essentially pure white coloration, which by essence is much more sensitive to yellowing when submitted to heat and/or light aging. Ohtomo's exemplified compositions probably contain such a high amount of carbon black (from 500 to 2000 ppm) to *mask* the problem the present invention solves: the yellowing that results from the aging of the polymer. In Ohtomo, by providing at least gray-colored products, this problem is avoided. The reference thus does not suggest reducing the amount of carbon black as doing so would highlight the yellowing problem. Certainly nothing in the reference suggests that using only 20 ppm or less of black pigment could or would *solve* the problem, as has been demonstrated above.

Accordingly, and in view of the differences between what is disclosed in Ohtomo and claimed herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are free of rejection as they are not obvious over the disclosure in Ohtomo. Thus, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection is requested, as is the passage of this case to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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